



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

New Orleans District

News Release

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Task Force Guardian

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The Army Corps of Engineers yesterday experienced movement of a 400-foot section of hurricane protection levee system near Buras in Plaquemines Parish.

The section of the levee slipped under its own weight because the sub-surface soil conditions were weaker than indicated by earlier soil borings. Confirmation test boring results were analyzed on Thursday, May 25 and indicated weak subsurface soil strength. TFG engineers were in the process of engineering a remedy when the movement occurred. Construction material was not a factor.

“The protection of the people of New Orleans remains our number one priority, and Task Force Guardian will insure the best possible hurricane protection in the shortest amount of time,” said Col. Lewis Setliff III, commander of Task Force Guardian. “An unexpected event such as this during construction is disappointing, but we will continue to work as quickly as possible to restore the hurricane protection system repairs while making sure the restoration is done correctly.”

The Corps estimates the repairs could take up to three weeks, which means attaining pre-Katrina protection along 400 feet of this levee section may not occur by June 1. The Corps is evaluating contingency plans, repair alternatives and a preliminary design will be completed today. Work is currently taking place to prevent further movement and Task Force Guardian will continue to monitor the construction of levee enlargements such as this.

The Corps continues to analyze extensive numbers of soil borings for shear strength. The analysis of this testing will be used beyond June 1 to continue to make the hurricane protection system better and stronger.